

pany, Lock's Regiment, North Carolina Militia; was a member of the State Senate in 1783 and 1797, and a member of the House of Commons in 1786 and 1789; was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, 1789-1795, and a member of the second North Carolina Constitutional Convention that adopted the Federal Constitution, 1789. In 1794, James Holland was elected to Congress and served, that time, from 1795 to 1797. In 1800 he was again elected to Congress and served continuously until 1811. In the year 1808, James Holland, who had decided to remove to Tennessee, told his friends that he would not again stand for election to Congress, whereupon the friends of Weightstill Avery, between whom and James Holland there always existed great rivalry, made the charge that Holland would not again stand for the nomination because he knew defeat stared him in the face. Hearing of this, Mr. Holland ordered the removal of his household effects to Tennessee to be stopped, a part having already been sent ahead, announced his candidacy against Avery and was overwhelmingly elected again to Congress. He is the only resident of Rutherford County who has ever been honored with a seat in Congress. After the expiration of his term in Congress he moved to Tennessee, where he died in 1823.

The gavel with which Mr. Dickerson has presented you is a mute reminder of the lives of William Gilbert and James Holland, two men who were most active and prominent in the early history of our State, but whose names, through the lapse of time and our culpable neglect of local history, are unknown to the present generation, notwithstanding the fact that these men are largely responsible for the peace, prosperity and liberty we now enjoy. It was due to the patriotic devotion of such men as these and to the wise legislation of those times that the existence of North Carolina as a State and the establishment of the United States as a world nation became possible. Mr. Dickerson commissions me to urge you to ac-